



Fact Sheet

Major Deliveries of the Merida Initiative for 2013

In December 2008, Mexico and the United States signed the first Letter of Agreement for the Merida Initiative, opening a chapter of historic cooperation and acknowledging the shared responsibilities of the United States and Mexico to counter drug-fueled violence threatening citizens on both sides of the border. With \$1.9 billion in appropriated funds from the U.S. Congress, by the close of 2013 the Merida Initiative had delivered approximately \$1.2 billion in equipment and training to the Government of Mexico (GOM). The Strategic Framework for implementing Merida Initiative activities and programs is referred to as the Four Pillars, each of which unites Merida Initiative programs under strategic objectives. Highlights of these programs and deliveries in 2013 include:

PILLAR I – Disrupt Capacity of Organized Crime to Operate

- Mexico's Secretariat of Communications and Transportation was provided with ground-based satellite communication terminals for Mexico's military, civil and humanitarian needs and enhanced coverage for domestic communications for fixed satellite services.
- Technical deliveries include enhancing *Plataforma Mexico*, which links over 120 GOM law enforcement and public safety databases; creating computerized law enforcement intelligence capabilities to map and analyze crime data; increasing Mexico's ability to investigate complex money laundering cases; and installing 19,000 automatic identification systems for marine safety and anti-smuggling efforts.
- The Federal Police were provided with qualified pilots and technicians needed to utilize aircraft previously donated.
- The UIF (Mexico's Financial Intelligence Unit) received training, hardware, and software—new tools used to process large amounts of data for actionable financial intelligence more effectively.

PILLAR II – Institutionalize Capacity to Sustain Rule of Law

- Six prisons received international accreditation by the American Correctional Association, bringing the total number of accredited facilities to 14.
- Standardized training was established at 24 of the state Control de Confianza Centers.
- A training seminar took place in November in Mexico City for Mexico's State and Federal Control de Confianza vetting officials, at which 700 vetting officials received instruction in the areas of Polygraph, Background Investigations, Toxicology and Psychology.
- The Tactical Village at the Puebla National Police Academy was inaugurated in December. The Academy is a national, state-of-the-art training center for State and local Mexican police officers. The tactical village is a mock portion of a town where police officers can practice various tactical exercises and scenarios.
- Capacity building courses delivered in 2013 include: human trafficking to over 220 National Institute of Migration personnel based in strategic positions at ports of entry to identify possible victims of human trafficking; anti-money laundering for approximately 200 GOM officials in the areas of asset forfeiture trainings, global financial systems, auditing forensics, organized crime financial schemes, and intelligence gathering; additional courses include witness protection, dignitary protection, IPR, and chain of custody.
- Over twenty Mexican federal judges attended introductory courses of the Judicial Studies Institute. The courses focus on the role of the judge in the accusatory system, evidence, fundamentals of criminal procedure, ethics, intellectual property rights, opinion writing, and case management.
- As 92% of crimes fall within state jurisdiction, training was provided to 2,263 state level justice sector operators in the new, oral and accusatorial criminal justice system and several key institutions, such as alternative justice centers and victims assistance units, were also strengthened.

PILLAR III – Create a 21st Century Border Structure

- Launched in December 2013, Viajero Confiable is a GOM trusted traveler program similar to the U.S. Global Entry program that allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers. Currently, Viajero Confiable is operating at airports in Cancun, San Jose del Cabo and Mexico City, with plans to expand to 10 additional airports.
- The acquisition and use of non-intrusive inspection equipment (NIIE) continues to be a critical component to securing the borders of Mexico in the fight to detect and prevent the flow of illicit goods. Since the inception of the Merida Initiative, over \$107 million in equipment has been donated in support of the GOM border security agencies and 1,293 GOM personnel, including train-the-trainers, have been certified in the use and operation of NIIE through joint and cross training.
- The three GOM federal agencies with established canine units have received training, equipment and support including adding over 300 canines to the detection workforce. In 2013, 56 canines were delivered along with specialized training, helping the GOM bring its procedures in line with international standards. Fifty canine unit instructors received training, which they then replicated to over 500 handlers throughout the GOM.

PILLAR IV – Build Strong and Resilient Communities

- Culture of Lawfulness (COL) programs aim to instill a sense of individual responsibility to uphold the rule of law in Mexico, with the larger goal of reducing crime and corruption. COL education is now part of the junior high school curricula in 31 states and federal entities for the 2013-14 school year.
- Citizens' watch booths were placed in 73 local offices of the Mexico City district attorney. The booths are staffed with observers who provided information to people reporting crimes. Over a period of 18 months, more than 16,250 people were surveyed about the services received. Periodic reports are delivered to the district attorney, who has used the data to improve services throughout the city.
- GOM officials have publicly announced that Mexico will expand implementation of drug treatment courts in a number of states. This project, implemented as part of Organization of American States' hemisphere-wide program, aims to reduce recidivism and addiction by diverting certain drug-addicted criminals to court-supervised treatment rather than prison.
- Youth engagement and development programs focusing on building stronger and more resilient communities through crime and violence prevention programs are geographically focused along the U.S.-Mexico border in the three target cities of Ciudad Juarez, Monterrey and Tijuana. Within each of these cities, three priority communities were selected by the GOM based on a number of factors, including crime rates, marginalization and the will of the local government and civil society to address violence and criminality.
- Crime mapping models that enable Ciudad Juarez's municipal government to identify hot spots and respond with tailored prevention measures have also been developed. In Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana, the Initiative's preexisting youth-engagement project resulted in over 450 students (70% of participants) re-enrolling in school or gaining meaningful employment.